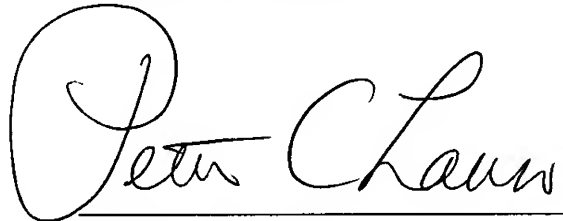


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to correct the amendment to the instant specification as set forth in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Rule 53(b) continuation application transmittal letter filed *via* Express Mail on December 21, 2001, to thereby comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.78. In particular, the specification has been amended to recite fully the priority claim, and to provide the current status of the parent application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter C. Lauro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

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Dated: February 20, 2002